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# The Brooklyn Paper

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## Blood in the Park

Prospect Park has become a macabre crime scene

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

Splattered blood on the rocks of Prospect Park, smashed turtle shells, a suspicious attempt at a campfire — and finally, arson in the reedy underbrush.

It's not the latest Linda Fairstein mystery novel — it's a chronology from last week along the lakeshore in Brooklyn's green heart.

Park-goer Susan Yuen noticed the first of the disturbing events — the blood-spattered rocks on the shoreline of the lake near Prospect Park Southwest.

There was blood, lots of it, pooled on the rocks and seeping into the silted soil. This wasn't a mere paper cut or skinned knee. This was murder. Someone had clearly used the rock as a rudimentary chopping block.

"It was still wet," said Yuen, shaken from the last Sunday discovery. "At first I thought the blood was from the swans."

Fortunately, Honeybear and the rest of the celebrity waterfowl were in good health, but were keeping away from their regular haunts — a sign to the bird-lovers that something traumatic had happened.

Yuen headed for the nearby Audubon Center in the boathouse and notified the naturalists, who analyzed

See PARK on page 6



## Just a Tish-grace!

Councilwoman James stars in bizarre lawsuit

By Stephen Witt  
Community Newspaper Group

Councilwoman Letitia James has filed a personal injury suit against an itinerant laborer after she allegedly injured herself walking into his legally parked truck.

The Democratic lawmaker, who makes \$122,500 a year as the people's representative in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, is seeking an unspecified amount of damages for wounds she claims to have sustained on July 11 when she walked into a four-inch trailer hitch protruding from David Day's parked car.

James sustained "serious, severe and permanent [injuries] to her limbs and body" and "she will be caused to suf-

fer ... continuous pain and inconvenience," according to court papers filed last month in Brooklyn Supreme Court by James's attorney Robert Mijovic of the powerful law firm of Rubenstein and Rynecki.

The court documents also allege that the injuries occurred on the eve of the councilwoman's re-election campaign, one that she waged with her typical vigor against two primary rivals.

She bounced to an easy victory. Additionally, several of James's Council colleagues told this newspaper that they

did not recall James limping or using crutches during the summer.

But court papers paint a very different scenario of the events of July 11 on Fulton Street between S. Portland Avenue and S. Oxford Street.

The lawsuit claims that James "came into contact with the exposed, unprotected hitch," contact that led to "great physical and mental pain" — though the actual body part that was damaged is not cited.

James claims that Day's hitch is illegal and that her injuries resulted "solely [from] the careless and negligent manner in which [he] owned and maintained his motor vehicle."

But Day says that the hitch is legal. He said he was loading recyclables into his car from the curb side when James



David Day is being sued by Councilwoman Letitia James, who claims she was injured when she bumped into his parked car.

parked closely behind him. She bumped into the hitch when walking between the cars to the sidewalk, he said.

She had a scratch on her skin, Day recalled, and he didn't think much of it until receiving notification that he

See JAMES on page 13



NEIGHI Walker Blankinship, owner of Kensington Stables, has won, thanks to a Board of Health decision to not change horse-boarding laws. Here, he enjoys the victory with Bingo.

## Stable situation for horses

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

Kensington Stables rides again! After initially signaling that it would be cracking down on horse stables, the city ended up saying "neigh" to reform on Tuesday morning.

Walker Blankinship, owner of the beloved stables on Caton Place near Prospect Park, was pleased to hear that the Board of Health had decided to skip some drastic reforms — which would have required costly renovations — but he knows he's not out of the woods yet.

After all, a law addressing the care of horses is moving through commit-

tee in the City Council.

"I'm optimistic," Blankinship said. "Of course, I'm looking at that [other legislation]."

The reforms that were scotched on Tuesday called for stable owners to expand stalls, give equestrian vacations, and install sprinkler systems.

"It was a one, two, three punch," Blankinship said. "I was going to lose a lot of operating income." He added that he would likely have had to close the stables, which he has owned for the last 17 years, if the reform went through.

But Blankinship still has a problem with what he calls the misguided notion that expanded stalls — called box stalls

— are more humane than traditional narrow stalls, called straight stalls.

"Straight stalls are better because the horses sleep in a straight line and are closer to other horses," Blankinship explained. "That way, they feel more like they're in a herd, which is what you want when we're taking groups out [in Prospect Park]."

"Four out of five NYPD barns use straight stalls," added Blankinship, whose barn is the only one of its kind not on the fringes of the borough.

Similarly, the notion of equestrian vacations also undermines the training for the Kensington Stable horses, which are mounted by people with little

or no experience, according to Blankinship.

"I don't think even Olympic trainers give their horses a vacation," Blankinship said. "You spend so much time training them — time off is a step backwards."

Area politicians have sided with the stables, echoing Blankinship's claim that the reforms should be directed solely at the care of carriage horses, not steeds meant for riding.

"We hope that the [Kensington] stables will be exempted [from any pending Council bill]," said Rachel Goodman, a spokesman for Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope).



## Southern dis-comfort

Band changes its name to appease booze company

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Southern Comfort Band's rebel yell was quelled to a whisper last week after the (slightly) better-known liqueur company finally got the Bay Ridge troupe to give in and change its name.

The classic-rock tribute band is now called "SCB."

It all stems from a series of cease-and-desist letters that Eddie Sarkis and his bandmates started receiving last year from the makers of Southern Comfort, who threatened legal action if the name wasn't changed.

"The Southern Comfort brand has



a strong connection with music, and the public associates the Southern Comfort brand and its products with music," lawyer Jill Jacobs said in a Sept. 2 letter to lead guitarist Sarkis. "Your band members' use of 'Southern Comfort' in your band's name ... is likely to cause the public to mistakenly believe that you are associated with, authorized by, or sponsored by Southern Comfort Properties when they are not."

See COMFORT on page 6



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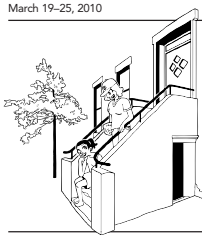
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# THE STOOP

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### PROSPECT PARK



## On thin ice!

### Skaters out for 2 years as rink rehab begins

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

Sunday's skating in Wollman Rink in Prospect Park was bittersweet — not just because it was the last day of the season, but because there won't be any ice time at all for the next two years.

Yes, two new and improved rinks are being built as part of the larger overhaul of the lakeside — but would-be Evan Lysackskis bemoaned the loss of ice skating for two seasons in the heart of Brooklyn.

"Two years is a real problem," said Mark Pennell, who brought his two kids to the rink. "Building a new one is a great thing, but kids grow up fast."

The current rink, which opened in 1961 during Robert Moses's reign as Parks Commissioner, is dilapidated and well past its lifespan, based on industry standards.

The good news is that planned renovations include two rinks that will accommodate ice skaters for five months instead of four — and will serve as a roller skating area during warmer seasons.

"The park is for a wide variety of people, so if it can offer a wider variety of activities, that's for the better," said Alvin McDonald, who was at the rink with his 10-year-old son. "Roller-skating complements ice skating, so it's a good idea."

Skaters did express skepticism about the two-year construction timetable, as well as the need to close the current rink while the project is implemented.

"Take everything else down!" pleaded Pennell. "The lockers, the bathrooms, the concessions — just leave the ice! Or just move the thing."

But park officials say that budget constraints made an interim rink impossible.

"There was some preliminary research done into [an interim rink]," said Prospect Park spokesman Eugene Patron. "But it seems that it is not economically viable — the footprint of building a temporary rink requires several buildings to support it, such as bathrooms, lockers and a rental facility, making it difficult to find a suitable location in Prospect Park."

"Temporary rinks seem to work best in places with constant, high-volume traffic and tourists, like Bryant Park," he added.

Some skaters said they could cope with the inconvenience of no skating, provided the park stuck to its construction plans.

"It's a shame it won't be open, but we can go to Floyd Bennett Field or Battery Park [to skate]," said Holly Kilpatrick, who was at the rink with her 7-year-old daughter. "I just hope it stays on schedule."

Once completed, the land where Wollman Rink is will be converted into a green area that looks towards an island that will serve as a natural area reserved for animals.

Patron said that given a little luck, the rink could reopen in one year, but park officials were saying two seasons to avoid disappointment.

"Architects and construction planners say this should last two seasons at the most," he said.

### WILLIAMSBURG



The former blinds company on Driggs Avenue.

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

It looks like there's a new beer garden in town!

Just weeks after the owners of Radegast Hall announced that they would double the size of their popular beer garden, an Upper West Side chef

### PARK SLOPE

## Berkeley Carroll School gets OK for expansion

By Gary Bulso  
Community Newspaper Group

The city has approved a Park Slope private school's expansion plan, a controversial scheme that vexes some residents who fear that the new building will undermine the neighborhood's historic character.

On Tuesday, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted 8-0 in favor of the Berkeley Carroll School's one-story annex and rooftop playground at the rear of its campus on Lincoln Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

The addition is four feet taller — and occupies a larger footprint — than an existing portion of the school that will be razed.

The project was approved because it "does not involve the removal of historic fabric, and the addition is not visible from a public thoroughfare," said Landmarks spokeswoman Lisa de Bourbon.

She added that the agency is not charged with assessing "quality of life concerns," but merely the impact of a project on a community's historic texture.

The school has argued that



The Berkeley Carroll School's expansion plan was approved this week by the city.

the new building addresses a pressing need for space, but opponents remain convinced that the playground will add an insufferable wall of sound to their daily lives.

Some residents of St. Johns Place, whose backyards abut the Berkeley Carroll School, vow to fight on.

"The community will not stand by and allow ... a project so antagonistic to the neighbors," said John Muir.

Dan Enriquez, a member of the St. Johns Place Block Association, added that the city approval will allow the "valued historic fabric within our landmark district to be lost forever."

But Lydia Denworth, the vice president of the school's board of directors, said that the opponents have taken "a hard line position" that is "overstating" the impact of the addition.

"This is our property and we have a right to build on it," she said. "Given what we need to do for the school, I think we are building a project that will be as low impact as possible."

Denworth said a 15-month construction could begin this summer.

### BAY RIDGE

## New supermarket is 'Key'

By Helen Klein  
Community Newspaper Group

Bay Ridge has put out the welcome mat for its new supermarket.

A new Key Food opened last Thursday on Bay Ridge Avenue with rock star-like crowds and a line down the block in front of the 13,000-square-foot store.

"The Key Food people told me it was one of the best openings I've ever witnessed," owner Sammy Abed said.

The crowd is not a surprise, given that the only other supermarket in the neighborhood are the Foodtown at Third Avenue and 91st Street; the Food City at



Key Food owner Sam Abed opened his supermarket last Thursday with lots of the local politicians and a surprising array of produce.

Third Avenue and Bay Ridge Parkway; a Met Food at 82nd Street and Fifth Avenue; and a small Associated at Third Avenue and 79th Street.

A fourth store, a Key Food at Third Avenue and 94th Street, closed in June, 2008. The neighborhood also lost the Walden's at Fourth Avenue and Senator Street and a Grand Union that had been located on Fifth Avenue at 94th Street.

Joseph Beckmann, the district manager of Community Board 10, was excited. "A supermarket is such a big thing for the community," she said. "It's beautiful on the inside."

Beckmann praised the store's wide diversity of offerings, which Abed said was part of the plan.

"In Bay Ridge, every time a supermarket lease ran out, a drugstore just gobbled up the space," Abed said. "You walk five blocks, there are eight drugstores, but if you walk 25 blocks, you can't find a supermarket."

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# Senesh plan off

## School won't build on courtyard

By Gary Bulso  
Community Newspaper Group

A Carroll Gardens private school announced late on Friday that it had abandoned its controversial plan to build an annex on the courtyard — ending a bitter debate over whether building on such yards would destroy the very character of the neighborhood.

The Hannah Senesh Community Day School said it would not erect a two-story building on land at the corner of Smith Street and First Place, and has decided instead to "pursue other space opportunities" in the neighborhood.

Neighbors were overjoyed. "This would have absolutely taken away the uniqueness of our street and the value of our property — and we've put everything

in these properties," said Barbara Brookhart.

At issue was the school's attempt to amend a city code so that it could build on its courtyard, which it currently uses as a parking lot. Once the plan was made public, neighbors recoiled, arguing that the portion of the city code in question, which dates back to the mid-1800s, essentially considers the front garden as a public space that cannot be built upon. Changing it would allow a precedent that opponents said, could lead to an erosion in the very essence of the neighborhood — the front gardens that give Carroll Gardens its name.

"We were most afraid that once law changed for [Hannah Senesh] other people would get the same idea and it would be changed again, and the signature courtyards would vanish, corner by corner," said Trisha Samaras, a member of the group Carroll Gardens Coalition for Respectful Development.

The controversy, which began in December, put a bitter punctuation mark on the term of Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who was preparing to introduce a bill that would amend the administrative code to allow the expansion. The resulting local outcry derailed that maneuver. Opponents argued that such a significant change in a land use should go through the city's public review process.

Pam Kaplan, the president of the Hannah Senesh board of directors, said that the school abandoned the plan because it is "sensitive to the concerns of our neighbors."

"We know that we will need additional space in the future ... and will seek



A plan to build on this parking lot, which neighbors said would destroy the character of Carroll Gardens, is off.

out such opportunities when available," she added. "We are, as a school, looking forward to being part of the Carroll Gardens community for many years to come."

She declined to say whether the school had found an off-site location for its expansion.

The 152-student Jewish day school, which has been at its current location for just three years, said it sought the expansion not to add enrollment, but to expand programs.

Now "the school is going to have to adapt to what is best for the kids," said Ken Fisher, the former Councilman hired by the school as its lobbyist.

"How it plays out, we don't know."

# Dancewave nabs check

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

He took the high road — and now the young dancers of Dancewave in Park Slope are closer to their dream of performing in Scotland.

Nick Kotsonis, owner of the S Club fitness center on Union Street, came through with a \$10,000 donation to underwrite the troupe's July trip to an international youth festival in Aberdeen after a travel agent scammed the company out of \$10,000 last year.

He presented the check at the Fourth Avenue dance center last Wednesday — and now Dancewave has half the money it needs.

"I feel very heartened that the community has come forward to help us," said Diane Jacobowitz, the troupe's executive director.

That said, about \$20,000 still needs to be raised. Before the travel agency scam, the dancers raised their own money, hosting bake sales and setting up a baby-sitting service to pay their own way to the festival, where they will be the only American troupe performing.

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# Brooklyn PARTISANS IN GOD

## Rev, rabbi on same page in 'Interfaith Smackdown'

We had so much fun the first annual interfaith smackdown, that we invited Rev. Daniel Meeter of Old First Reformed Church and Rabbi Andy Bachman of Beth El Synagogue in Park Slope to chew over the issues of the day facing the "faith-based" community. On the eve of their religions' holiest periods, Meeter and Bachman checked in with our atheist editor, Gersh Kuntzman.

Andy Bachman: First of all, why do you insist on calling this a "smackdown"? What the socialist, liberal, non-believing psychological fantasy are you working through here?

Gersh Kuntzman: Just that one, I guess. Daniel Meeter: This is why I love Gersh. He calls us instead of going to a therapist.

GK: Settle down. Now, I don't mean to depress you, but you religious types were in the news last week when Fox News commentator Glenn Beck urged Christians to avoid churches that practice "social justice," claiming that "social justice" was just a buzzword for Communism. So are you guys a bunch of Communists? DM: That whole thing was ridiculous. Perhaps people who already side with Glenn Beck will listen to that, but it makes no sense. The 10 Commandments are social justice! Aren't the conservatives always trying to get the 10 Commandments in school?

AB: And lest we forget, the God of the Torah asks us to be his partner in creation and making the world more just and righteous, loving and peaceful. The voice of God in the New Testament asks Christians to emulate Jesus and be a loving, caring partner with God and make the world more just. I have no idea what Glenn Beck is talking about. It's literally gibberish. He's the angriest Mormon I've ever heard of.

GK: It's certainly common people to try to involve themselves in politics. As you saw last week, a conservative-majority school agency board in Texas voted to ensure that textbooks question Evolution and play up Republican politics. How come you guys don't get into that?

AB: The fight in Texas is less about religion and more about how the conservative perspective will be taught. They want to correct the historical view of the course of American history for students. The right is fighting for the hegemony of its voice in the teaching of history. But Evolution is settled as a religious issue for people in our faith community because we believe in the doctrine of progressive revelation. You can believe in God and Evolution.

DM: I agree with progressive revelation, but I do take a little exception with Andy. There is a religious element to the re-writing of textbooks. These people find a secular democracy scary. For whatever reason, there is a human motive to try to make the secular religious. They want to make America a church, to make faith a requirement in

the political sphere.

GK: Let's get back to Evolution for a second. Are you both saying that God did not create Man? Isn't that, like, page one in your good book?

DM: God gives us freedom. It's like this metaphor: When Beethoven wrote the Third Symphony, he did not create the music. He wrote the music, but orchestra played it. Creation is not as simplistic as "God created Man." I don't see a problem with creation and Evolution.

GK: But what was created?

AB: The sages use an analogy that God is like an architect who wrote a plan. The life force becomes, if you will, the contractor who executes the plan. God did not have to, as it is depicted in Genesis, use a divine hand and create Man out of earth. The problem with the whole thing is that neither of us believes in an anthropomorphic God of the universe. I see God in the process of instigating the process of all life. If somewhere in that chain, humanity evolves and it becomes the pinnacle of creation, that is the intent unfolding. I believe that! That's a faith statement.

DM: Look at it this way: If that asteroid had not hit the earth and the dinosaurs had not gone extinct, the animal with the face of God would have had scales and a tail.

GK: So God sent the asteroid?

AB: That presumes that God is sitting in a chair with an iPad.

GK: God has an iPad? He always gets the best toys.

DM: God doesn't manipulate. God gives the wisdom and the freedom for all creatures, from atoms to scientists.

GK: So where does intolerance come from? DM: It comes from fear. Many people fear that God will not come through for us. Or they fear that God won't protect us. They fear someone who is dirty or someone who makes them feel dirty. Even squirrels have fear. You can't get off it. You have to deal with fear. The question is how we deal with it. Do you project it or do you work your way through it?

GK: But God does not protect us.

DM: He doesn't protect us from being humans. He does not go around protecting us from having bodies. We don't see God as a constant interventionist. A lot of people want that from their gods, like Zeus of old.

AB: An analogy that I like is watching parents at the tot lot in Prospect Park. At 18 months, a parent is stooped over every step so the child doesn't hurt himself. And at a certain point, the child says, whether in gibberish or English, "Leave me alone." A mature adult understands that the ultimate test of the covenant relationship with God is that we have to take control at some point. God could not stop 9-11 or the Holocaust. Humans treat each other in an abominably poor way. People say, "Where was God?"

GK: Where was God? AB: It's the wrong question. God is waiting for us to be responsible with the freedom He gives us. It's like the child. We want our in-



The Rev. Daniel Meeter (left) and Rabbi Andy Bachman are on the same page.

dependence.

GK: So what are the big topics in the pulpit right now?

DM: It's Lent and Easter. We're talking about repentance.

GK: Why bother? No, seriously, why repent anything?

DM: To build honesty and self-awareness, for starters.

tion. They ask, "Have the institutions of government lost their way?"

GK: What do you say?

AB: I liken faith in our constitutional democracy to our covenantal relationship with God. American democracy is a covenant between the government and the people — and it has its own Torah: the Constitution. So I talk a lot about renewing that covenant.

GK: You religious people — always using God as a metaphor for democracy.

AB: The second big topic right now is Israel. This last Shabbat, many members of my congregation said they were completely mystified and saddened by the way Netanyahu treated Biden and, by extension, President Obama. My congregation loves Israel. They want to support Israel, but they could not believe these amateurs. Where is Rabin, or Aha Eban, true leaders?

DM: Another topic I hear a lot about is how can we be Christians in America with dignity and self-respect? Christianity has taken a twist that embarrasses a lot of us. The Fundamentalist twist. The Glenn Beck thing. The Texas school book thing. People want to be strong Christians, but the model of strong Christian right now is an aggressive, antagonist model that is trying to re-establish a Christian America. We want to be Christians who contribute to a secular democracy. We don't want to be Sarah Palin.

GK: Thank God (if you will).

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# Wake and bake on the BQE!

## 76TH PRECINCT

### Carroll Gardens

#### Cobble Hill-Road Hook

A man was arrested after slamming his Chevy Blazer into another car on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway on March 11 — and then cops discovered that he was high as a kite on the wacky weed.

Officers responding to the 9 a.m. crash near Atlantic Avenue noticed that the 48-year-old driver had watery and bloodshot eyes. Closer inspection revealed a familiar stench popularized in the Lynyrd Skynyrd song "Ooh, That Snail." Eventually, a bag of pot and a spent joint were found, too.

The man was arrested.

#### Missed it

A thief missed a full envelope of cash that sitting on the table of a First Street apartment on March 9, but he did get away with some bills and a laptop.

Cops said that the thief entered the unit, which is between Hoyt and Bond streets, at around 7:30 p.m. and scooped up the items. But he failed to take an envelope on a table that contained \$680.

He got \$100, though.

— **Gersh Kuntzman**

## 88TH PRECINCT

### Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

#### Atlantic frantic

More troublemakers stalked the Atlantic Terminal Mall at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues last week.

A thief swiped a woman's purse and handed it off to an accomplice, who fled in a black limo cab in front of the mall on March 8. The victim told cops that she was buying a soda at around 4:30 p.m. when the thief struck. A struggle between the victim and perp concluded with the thief handing the bag off to his partner in crime. The getaway snatcher got \$500.

— **Stephen Brown**

#### Crunched!

A burglar busted into at least two apartments in the same Cambridge Place building between Greene and Gates avenues on March 11.

The first victim told cops she returned to her apartment at around 7 p.m. and noticed the lock of her front door had been broken. The thief made off with a digital camera, a DVD player and an iPod.

— **Stephen Brown**

#### Car thefts

At least two vehicles were swiped last week. Here's a round-up.

A thief nabbed a Ford van from Eighth Avenue on March 9. The owner told cops that he had parked the van between St. Johns and Lincoln places at around 8 a.m., but it was gone when he returned to it at around 9 p.m.

— **Andy Campbell**

#### Gunshot

Two brigands stormed a Myrtle Avenue bodega on March 13, shooting an employee in the leg.

The wounded worker told cops that the thugs entered the convenience store between Washington Park and Carlton

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

— **Stephen Brown**

#### Crunched!

A thief swiped a wallet from a locker in the Crunch gym on Fulton Street on March 14.

The physically active victim told cops that he returned to his locker in the gym between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street at around 3:30 p.m. to find the lock clipped and his wallet, containing \$60 and an assortment of IDs, gone.

— **Stephen Brown**

#### 78TH PRECINCT

### Park Slope

#### Thug snatch

A thief grabbed a woman's purse on Fourth Avenue on March 9, snatching her cash and cards after a brief struggle.

The victim told cops that she was near 10th Street at around 12:15 a.m. when a man came up from behind and said, "Let it go or I'll punch you."

She didn't listen to the demand, and the pair briefly struggled over the purse before the thief got it.

— **Andy Campbell**

#### Slasher

A brutal thug slashed a 14-year-old's face on Fort Greene Place on March 12.

The young victim told cops that she was walking between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place towards Brooklyn Technical HS at around 7 a.m. when her unknown assailant attacked from behind, slashing both sides of her face.

— **Andy Campbell**

#### Gunshot

Two brigands stormed a Myrtle Avenue bodega on March 13, shooting an employee in the leg.

The wounded worker told cops that the thugs entered the convenience store between Washington Park and Carlton

— **Andy Campbell**

#### 94TH PRECINCT

### Greenpoint-Williamsburg

#### Party foul

A 17-year-old gunman was arrested on March 13 after he shot and injured two partygoers on Jackson Street.

The first victim said that he was in a room with 20 people at a party — between Kingsland and Debevoise avenues — at about 11 p.m. when the thug randomly pulled out a handgun from across the room and started firing at him.

The victim was hit in the upper thigh.

The second man told cops that he tried to grab the gun, but the jerk turned to him and fired another shot, hitting him in the abdomen.

That's when the gunman fled, only to be arrested later. The wounded were taken to the hospital and treated for their injuries.

— **Andy Campbell**

#### 84TH PRECINCT

### Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

#### Boorum Hill-Downtown

#### YMCA-hole

A thief screwed over two men who were just trying to stay in shape at the Atlantic Avenue YMCA on March 11.

The first victim had finished working out at the gym between Court and Adams streets and returned to his locker at around 5 p.m., only to find his watch and wallet, holding a credit card and an ID, was missing.

The second victim returned to his locker a mere hour later and came upon a similar crime scene. His lock had been broken, and he was missing a wallet, credit cards and \$40.

— **Andy Campbell**

#### Good Grace!

Cops are investigating the possibility that a thief broke into at least two Grace Court apartments between Hicks and Furman streets last week.

The first break-in occurred on March 9. The tenant came home at around 10:50 p.m. to find her doorajar, and her laptop, diamond earrings, and diamond necklace gone.

The thief then struck again three days later. This time, the resident told cops that he arrived home

at around 1:10 p.m. and noticed that the lock of his front door had been damaged. Inside, he found that the robber had muffed off with a laptop computer, DVD player, a cellphone, an assortment of clothes and a set of speakers.

— **Stephen Brown**

#### Locker loon

Another thief busted into a locker at the new Planet Fitness on March 8.

The victim told cops that he had finished his workout at the gym, which is between Fulton and Willoughby streets, at around 12:45 p.m. to find his lock had been removed and his wallet, containing \$100, IDs and credit cards, was missing.

— **Stephen Brown**

#### 58TH PRECINCT

### Bay Ridge

#### Hood-winked

A 19-year-old was pistol-whipped and robbed in Dyker Heights on March 14 after a gun-toting thief asked him, "Do you know what 'hood you're in?"

The victim told police that the unidentified gunman followed him as he walked from a grocery store to his car parked on 70th Street near 110th Avenue at 1:15 a.m.

As he got behind the wheel, the thief tapped his pistol on the driver's side window, getting his attention. He then put the muzzle against his victim's head, demanding his property.

"Give me your \$—," the thief said before posing the Brooklyn geography question. He pistol-whipped the victim before running off with \$40, police said.

— **Stephen Brown**

#### Back bruiser

A 21-year-old man was dragged to the ground and beaten for his backpack on Eighth Avenue on March 14.

The victim said he was near 68th Street just before 5 a.m. when an unidentified man ran up behind him, grabbed him by the backpack and pulled him to the ground.

The thug was joined by three accomplices, one of whom had a gun, police said.

The victim said that the thieves beat him before making off with his backpack, but not before having the audacity to ask if he had anything else of value on him.

A witness told police that "two gunshots" were fired off into the air as the suspects made their escape.

The thieves may have scored the backpack, but they didn't get much else. The only thing in the bag were some books, an assortment of clothing and badminton rackets.

— **Thomas Tracy**

#### 90TH PRECINCT

### Williamsburg-Bushwick

#### Lots of punches

Two brutes attacked a 12-year-old boy twice in one day and stole his cellphone on March 8.

The boy told police that he was first attacked while walking on Graham Avenue between Cook and Thornton streets at about 3:30 p.m. The two jerks moved toward him, punched him in the face and kicked him to the ground before they stole his phone.

On his way home a short time later, the two found him again and punched him repeatedly in the face. He trudged home alone, where his mom called police.

— **Thomas Tracy**

#### Ball boy

A thug swiped a woman's phone while she played handball in Sierberg Park on March 12.

The victim told police that the guy randomly walked up to her at the park, which is at Lorimer Street and Montrose Avenue, at about 2:50 p.m. and said, "Give me your phone."

When she refused, he grabbed the mobile device and ran.

— **Mo' money!**

An obnoxious arcade fanatic broke into Metropolitan Laundry and stole more than \$500 in quarters on March 12.

Employees came back to the shop — which is on Metropolitan Avenue between Lorimer and Leavenworth streets — after closing hours at 11 p.m. to find all the quarters missing, as well as a missing safe with "unknown" contents, according to the police report.

— **Andy Campbell**



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# A True Reform Agenda

Diane Ravitch is one of the nation's most respected writers on education policy and history. A former Assistant Secretary of Education in Washington (in a Republican administration), she was an early proponent of increased accountability, charter schools, and other "market" reforms.

But Ms. Ravitch, who has followed these issues closely in recent years, has not liked what these policies have produced. In fact, she has changed her mind, and her new book, *"The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education,"* is a ringing indictment of many current education "reforms."

It should be required reading for single-minded proponents of test prep, charter schools and school closings, including their cheerleaders on the editorial pages of New York City's tabloids.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein have made the expansion of charter schools a key element of their education agenda, with the Mayor stating that one of his goals is to expand charter schools to the point where they take in as much as 10 percent of the city's school kids.

The Mayor and other charter proponents maintain that charters do a better job of educating kids than do public schools, producing higher average test scores.



**By Michael Mulgrew**  
President of the United Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers.

Here's what Ms. Ravitch has to say in a recent column in the Wall Street Journal about her findings in researching her new book:

*"The higher graduation rates posted by charters often reflect the fact that they are able to 'counsel out' the lowest performing students; many charters have very high attrition rates (in some, 50-60% of those who start fall away). Those who survive do well, but this is not a model for public education, which must educate all children."*

## CLOSING SCHOOLS:

On both a local and national level, school authorities are focusing on closing schools in trouble rather than fixing them. The UFT, joined by the NAACP, recently sued the Department of Education to try to prevent it from closing 19 schools that the Department has tried to shutter, based on shaky or indefinite criteria.

Here's Ms. Ravitch's analysis of this phenomenon, nationwide:

*"The current emphasis on accountability has created a punitive atmosphere in the schools. The Obama administration seems to think that schools will improve if we fire teachers and close schools. They do not recognize that schools are often the anchor of their communities, representing values, traditions and ideals that have persevered across decades. They also fail to recognize that the best predictor of low academic performance is poverty—not bad teachers."*

## TESTING:

Chancellor Klein has often discussed how critical he regards the collection of data and the importance of constant testing to determine students' progress. He also trumpeted dramatic student gains on state tests as proof of the soundness of this approach, although the gains of New York City students on national tests has been much more modest than those recorded on the state tests. Many teachers have complained that the focus on preparation for state tests has taken too much time away from

real instruction on what kids need to know.

Ms. Ravitch has some strong words about this issue also:

*"In short, accountability turned into a nightmare for American schools, producing graduates who were drilled regularly on the basic skills but were often ignorant about almost everything else. Colleges continued to complain about the poor preparation of entering students, who not only had meager knowledge of the world but still required remediation in basic skills."*

## REAL SCHOOL REFORM

The public debate on modern education has been dominated recently by charter cheerleaders and "get-ough" proponents of closing schools and relentless testing. Too often they have combined exaggerated claims of success of their "reform" tactics with a denunciation of their opponents as defenders of a failed status quo.

Let's hope that Ms. Ravitch's impeccable reputation for honesty, her rigorous scholarship and her unmatched sense of history should now be helping these people rethink their positions. Meanwhile, as a teacher and union leader, I heartily endorse another of her observations:

*"What we need is not a marketplace, but a coherent curriculum that prepares all students. And our government should commit to providing a good school in every neighborhood in the nation, just as we strive to provide a good fire company in every community."*

ADVERTISEMENT

# PARK...

Continued from page 1

the crime scene photos. "If it is blood, probably not from a bird, even if it was sitting in one spot, slowly bleeding over a long period of time," the naturalists concluded. "It seems that would have to be a pretty big fish for that big a pool blood. And for to collect that densely on the top of the dirt and the rock, like a pour, it's probably not likely."

The message went on to say that a dog attack seemed unlikely, as out-of-control dogs generally "go for a kill ... and then try to break the neck. But they don't sit there and rip it apart."

If it had only been some blood on the rocks, that would have been alarming enough, but that macabre incident was only the beginning.

By Thursday morning, more blood had appeared at the crime scene, meaning that someone—or something—had repeated the grisly deed.

Unofficial park watchdogs Ed Bahlman and Anne-Katrin Titze, who have become leading advocates for swan safety, were quickly alerted, and their keen eyes noticed other disturbing clues.

A few feathers were scattered about a splotch of blood on a tree by the lake—was some desperate or demonic soul capturing the waterfowl for a meal?

"But where are the bones? There are no carcasses," Titze said. "It goes against any theory that an animal could have caught it. It's too clean and butchered."

To add to the mystery, there was an arrangement of sticks in a campfire-like pile nearby.

While contemplating the significance of these unsettling signs of malfeasance, Titze and Bahlman came upon another disturbing site: someone had smashed turtle shells in the middle of the path opposite the boat house. They were picked clean of flesh.

"Sure, an animal could

have eaten [the meat]," said Bahlman. "But someone would have had to smash them."

He ominously added, "Somebody is doing something mean-spirited."

But that very night, this unraveling mystery would take a fiery turn.

At the very same site where the fire had been attempted, someone succeeded and started a blaze that swept across the reeds on the banks of Prospect Park lake, scorching 30 yards of phragmites—the invasive species that blankets portions of the lake front.

Friday morning, all that was left was an ashy wasteland scattered with glass bottles and beer cans. The smell of cinder was still in the air.

"We do have homeless people camp out in the phragmites, but not usually there," said Eugene Patton, a spokesman for the park. "Sometimes they'll light a fire—but it's too damp. It's weird."

Anne Wong, the head of landscape management at the park, said that the "prag" must have burnt out on its own, adding that the culprit could just as easily be rowdy kids causing trouble. Patton said the police had not been alerted during any of the sinister nocturnal activities.

Many questions remain unanswered. Who—or what—left all the blood on the rocks (which the rain has since rinsed clean)? Did some malicious madman smash the turtles that bask in the sun near the boat house? Lastly, who started the fire, and was it an ill-fated attempt to cook some illicit avian or reptilian meat?

Or is something else entirely going on?

Prospect Park officials are investigating, but have nothing so far.

"We don't know whether there is a connection or just an unfortunate coincidence," Patton said. "It's all these weird pieces, but nothing concrete."

# HATE...

Continued from page 1

The consensus of the neighborhood was certainly not on the minds of five thugs on March 2 when they attacked a 22-year-old Red Hook resident as he made his way past Laquer Street.

Anti-gay slurs were thrown as easily as punches when the man was beaten to the ground, left with bruises to his face and the back of his head.

The suspects remain at large.

A friend of the victim said he was too traumatized to attend the rally.

Yet in almost the same breath, the friend, Mike Miller, said the attack wasn't going to stop him from walking the streets of Carroll Gardens anytime soon.

"I'm not afraid," he said. "You can't be afraid."

# BOOZE...

Continued from page 1

agreement for the city's takeover of the waterfront development is completely hashed out, has already sought proposals for Pier 1's concessions, and plans to do the same for Pier 6 in the coming weeks.

City and park officials told Community Board 2's Parks and Recreation Committee that they'll seek two stands and a restaurant at Pier 6 at the end of Atlantic Avenue, and four concessions at Pier 1 at the foot of Old Fulton Street—including an elevated wine bar for skyline-side sipping.

"We're looking for concessions that cater to everyone—and one of the biggest questions we get during the design phase was, 'Where can I drink publicly in your park?'" said David Lowin, a vice president with the corporation. "Of course, it would be cordoned off so that drinking only takes place in one spot."

That spot is a plaza is an area at the foot of Old Ful-

ton Street that is bordered by trees, the waterfront and Brooklyn Bridge. If the proposals go through as expected, the plaza will have two basic concession stands—possibly offering hot dogs and snacks—and a space at the gatehouse for more food.

Pier 1—which, like Pier 6, is scheduled to open this spring—would sport two more cart-like concession stands and a restaurant that holds about 60 diners in a building with rooftop access, officials said.

But it's not going to be another River Café, Lowin said. "That's not the price range we're looking for."

The concessions would open by July, and the responses are due April 1. That's assuming that all goes well with the city's takeover of the \$350-million venture, a long-delayed 1.7-mile strip of green from John Street in DUMBO to Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill.

# COMFORT...

Continued from page 1

Sarkis ignored the letter, and the next few—but eventually decided to switch to "SCB" so he and his bandmates could TCB.

"Look, we just want to play music—Bay Ridge needs this," said Sarkis, known best for his covers of Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers. "[Southern Comfort] sent me two more cease-and-desists, and I just want to fly under the radar."

"We're going with SCB so we can keep doing what we love," he concluded.

Sarkis has multiple Bay Ridge legacies. On Saturday night, he played a show with his other group, Head Over Heels, at the Greenhouse Café on Third Avenue between 77th and 78th streets, where a huge crowd spilled into the streets.

It's unclear whether Sarkis will change the name of his Web site, currently www.southerncomfortmusic.com, or even whether Southern Comfort would continue hounding him (representatives of the

booze company have been unreachable for weeks).

The company's policy about going after groups with the "Southern Comfort" moniker remains unclear. Courts have upheld the rights of copyright owners in cases when other businesses' use of the same name confuses the public, but makers of the sweet liqueur have apparently not sent cease-and-desist letters to a yearly transgender event in Atlanta called the Southern Comfort Conference. And it seems the company has missed the Southern Comfort Maltose Rescue group, which is dedicated to caring for tiny dogs.

Regardless, Sarkis and the band won't give up on what they do best for some liqueur company. They had a show lined up for Friday at the Bally Bun on Third Avenue near 95th Street, where Sarkis's "SCB" cooked its Southern rock.

"We won't stop now," Sarkis said.

In other words, "Freebird!"

# The carnival schedule was on page 2.



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March 19-25, 2010

# Rabbi goes West

Semitic sheriff is back for his toughest showdown yet

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Finally, Rabbi Harvey is made for Hollywood.

The cult hero of a generation of Jewish boys, Park Slope author Steve Sheinkin's Talmud-spouting Wild West lawman rides again this month, in a new full-length graphic novel that is practically during a film studio to finally make a hero out of this man in a black hat.

"Someone suggested Adam Sandler as Harvey, but I don't know," said Sheinkin, whose prior books in the series are the collections, "The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey" and "Rabbi Harvey Rides Again" (both from Jewish Lights Publishing). "It's against character, I suppose, but the look is right."

Casting aside, the latest saga, "Rabbi Harvey vs. The Wisdom Kid," is perfect for the big screen because it's a full-length, well-plotted graphic tale. Starting with a seemingly innocent act of saving a drowning man's life and moving with quarter horse speed to the climactic (though gun-free) "High Noon"-style showdown with Rabbi Ruben (a.k.a. "The Wisdom Kid"), this plot has more momentum than a runaway stagecoach on a mountain road.

But it's more than just a great yarn. It's a franchise.

Take the lonesome topography of the Wild West, add in a bit of Biblical wisdom and a soupçon of Hollywood iconography and, in essence, you have the world of Rabbi Harvey.

True, the premise is absurd on its face — Rabbi Harvey inhabits a world in which none of the residents of the fictional 1840s frontier town of Elk Spring questions having a rabbi as the sheriff, spiritual leader, therapist and all-around best friend.

It's a bit of a riff on the great Gene Wilder 1979 movie "The Frisco Kid," but in the film, Wilder's Rabbi Avram was only passing through the West on his way to start a congregation in San Francisco.

Sheinkin's drawings depict Harvey as the ultimate fish out of the Colorado River — his eyes are heavy, his beard is so thick that you can't even see his mouth, and doesn't do much at all except think. But Rabbi Harvey is just as much a member of the Elk Spring community as the butcher or the dry goods shopkeeper.

"Year after year, the most popular event at the Elk Spring Fair was the 'Stump the Rabbi' booth," Sheinkin wrote, absurdly, in the opening of one story from his first collection.

And in another memorable sequence in the new book, a second rabbi comes to town. Instead of expressing surprise at the sudden doubling of the rabbinical population of Elk Spring, the two men are awed.

"You shoulda seen this fella, Mort," one man says to another. "Such incredibly quick thinking."



## BOOKS

"Rabbi Harvey vs. The Wisdom Kid" (Jewish Lights Publishing) is available at Community Bookstore (143 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 753-3075) and Barnes and Noble (247 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 532-9066).

Even faster thinking keeps Harvey one step ahead of the bad guys, including Big Milk Wasserman and his son, Wolfe, who frame Harvey in a robbery plot and kidnap his love interest, the schoolteacher, Abby.

But it doesn't spoil the ending to report that Harvey triumphs in the end, thanks to a enough ancient Jewish wisdom to fill the very Hebrew school classrooms that

Sheinkin hated as a kid.

"I only went to Hebrew school because it was important to my father, but he could see how bored I was, so he gave me the book, '101 Jewish Folk Tales,' which was so much more exciting," said Sheinkin, who is also the author of a series of completely factual history textbooks that nonetheless make the topic fun for teenagers. "I started to read the stories, which was so clever and funny, and that's what really got me interested."

In that context, setting the Rabbi Harvey series in the Wild West makes perfect sense, too.

"I was a regular Jewish-American kid," Sheinkin said. "So all the folklore gets mixed up — Jewish stories, plus the American Western myths of sheriffs and



Captive audience: Writer Steve Sheinkin is the author of three volumes in the "Rabbi Harvey" series of Wild West comics.

gold and bad guys. Now, I read literally hundreds of folklore stories before coming up with any Rabbi Harvey plots. The downside is the people often think that I actually have the wisdom. No, I just write the stories. Rabbi Harvey has the wisdom."

Sharing the joy of seemingly dull topics is a personal obsession of Sheinkin. His prior history books include, "King George: What Was His Problem," about the American revolution; "Two Miserable Presidents," about the Civil War and "Which Way to the Wild West?" a series about westward expansion.

"I was a textbook writer for years, but editors would never let me put in the good stuff," he said.

Good stuff? "There's a story in my Revolutionary War book about Paul Revere's ride — at one point, he needs material, so a woman guesses him her underwear. It's totally true, but I couldn't get past the textbook editor. They think textbooks can't be fun or disgusting, but successful kids books are fun and disgusting."

Unlike his history books, Sheinkin's rabbinical Westerns have a familiar feel. You've certainly seen other versions of the story in which a glib man is tricked into confession in an honesty test — but in Sheinkin's version, Harvey tells three men that they have to stick their hands into a "machine" and touch the Stetson hat inside. The one who is guilty of the crime, we are told, will cry out in pain.

When the villain inserts his hand, yet does not scream, an onlooker desponds in perfect Borscht Belt style. "That's disappointing."

Of course, Rabbi Harvey gets his man — and the townspeople erupt in cheers for their heroic Rabbi.

A classic Hollywood ending. Are you listening, Mr. Sandler?

## DINING

### Better 'Vue'

Turns out, the Vue stunk — and now, in its place will be a classy rooftop Italian restaurant, the landlord of the Hotel Le Bleu has revealed.

"The restaurant will be run by a prominent chef with experience in Bay Ridge and Lower Manhattan," said Domenico Tomacchini, the landlord of the eight-story boutique hotel on Fourth Avenue between Third and Fifth streets. He added that the restaurant should open in the "next couple of weeks."

The shuttering of the Vue — which happened last Monday — comes as welcome news to many of its neighbors who bombarded city agencies with complaints about the noise from the freaky club and its swank rooftop dance area.

"I probably complained [to 311] about 10 times," said Cynthia Simonoff, who lives across the street in the Neo apartment building. "They played loud club music with a strong bass. Sometimes they'd have DJs and you could hear the crowd roaring."

"Practically every time there was a party there, the cops showed up," she added.

Simonoff said she and roughly 10 other irritated neighbors also swamped the State Liquor Authority with complaints.

"It's fantastic," Simonoff said. "All of us who worked so hard to bring this annoyance to the attention of authorities should go have a party at that restaurant."

— Stephen Brown

## DINING

### Welsh rarity

It took Welshman Michael Colbert more than five years to get it right, but when you step into Long Bow Pub and Pantry in Bay Ridge, you'll agree that he did.

On afternoons, soccer and rugby games flicker on the monitors. In the evening, the lights dim in the beautiful wood-paneled bar room, and the music isn't too loud. Twelve classic pub-style beers are on tap — among them London Pride and Old Speckled Hen, served in 20-ounce pints — with more than 30 available by bottle.

Out of the kitchen come light, crispy fish and chips and hearty shepherd's pie — all fresh and made to order. That's pretty much the menu, but Colbert believes that you do what you do and you do it right.

"In this neighborhood where there are so many fine restaurants, you don't want to be putting out fish food," Colbert said.

Long Bow Pub and Pantry (7316 Third Ave. between 73rd and 74th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-7468). Kitchen opens at 5 p.m. on weekdays, open all day on weekends beginning with a full English breakfast.

— Mike Benigno

## DINING

### Pizza man

By 6 p.m. sharp, a horde of people had already gathered in front of Paulie Gee's, clamoring to try the first pies of a certified pizza summer — all this for a man who last summer was still just making pies in his backyard.

For months, foodie blogs kept sounding the alarm about the opening. But the delays only fueled the excitement.

"We heard it was opening, and rushed to be the first," said Nathan Maxwell Cann, 24, who had the honor of getting the first pizza that Paulie Gee, aka Paul Giamonne, pulled from the oven, a pie called the Greenpoint that features homemade faro de latte, arugula from the Rooptop Farms, fresh lemon juice and shaved Parmigiano. "It's fantastic and it's beautiful. It really raised the bar for pizza."

The pie — a Neapolitan-style cloud of dough — developed a cultish following while Giamonne was still a quality assurance engineer by day, churning out pies by night in a homemade brick oven in his New Jersey backyard.

"I almost don't believe it," said Giamonne. "This really is a dream come true."

Pizza lovers will feel the same way.

Paulie Gee's (60 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Williamsburg, (347) 987-3747).

— Kristen V. Brown

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### SATURDAY March 20

**Girl power!**  
Get your feminism on at a panel discussion about the generations of feminists who empowered us. "Redstockings, Riot Grrls, and Right Now" — Three Generations of Feminism in Conversation" features a meet-and-greet with the panel and other like-minded activists. But remember, we're "women," not "grrls."

2 pm, "Redstockings, Riot Grrls, and Right Now" — Three Generations of Feminism in Conversation" Brooklyn Museum, 1200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 237-2752, www.brooklynmuseum.org

### SUNDAY March 21

**Erin go march**  
The pipes, the pipes are calling — so it's time for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Look for Borough President Markowitz handing out his green bagels in front of the Pavilion Cinema at around 9 am, as curly-headed Irish step dancers (are those wigs?) and bagpipe bands gather in advance of the noon step-off. A pre-parade Mass will be held at the Holy Name Church in Windsor Terrace.

Noon, St. Patrick's Day Parade starts at Prospect Park West and 4th Street in Park Slope.

### MONDAY March 22

**He wrote the songs**  
He's a man who's done it all in the rock and roll world — and he somehow managed to write it all down through the haze! Famed classic rock journalist Jon Wiederhorn will present his 20 years of interviewing the best (and the worst) rock legends. For the aspiring journalist, he'll be giving career advice too if you can hear him over the Aerosmith.

12:20 pm, Rock Journalist Jon Wiederhorn at St. Francis College 180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200. Free.

### THURSDAY March 25

**Hasidic jazz**  
It's not often you get the chance to hear a meshing of prayerful Hasidic music and jazz with one hot man in one hot spot — just in time for Passover! But Andy Statman, the virtuoso clarinetist and mandolin master, is continuing to take the borough by storm. He'll bring in da funk — Jerusalem style — with his set at Barbes.

10 pm, Andy Statman at Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9777). \$10. For info, visit www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

### SATURDAY March 27

**Hot time tonight**  
Look, you've got some barbecue sauce on your face. But don't wash it off — instead, head to Grillin' on the Bay, the borough's only sponsored barbecue and chili competition. All the top chefs and foodies will be there preparing ribs and so many varieties of chili that even a Texan would forget the Alamo. You get to reap the saucy benefits.

All day, "Grillin' on the Bay" at St. Mark School (2006 E. 19th St. between Avenue 2 and Jerome Avenue in Sheepshead Bay). For info, visit www.grillinonthebay.blogspot.com.

## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

### FRI, MARCH 19

**THEATER, "THE UNKNOWN WILLIAMS"**  
Discover the plays you don't know and find startling new ways to look at the plays you think you do know, as Target Market Theater explores the less-known work of Tennessee Williams. \$12-30 and 9:30 pm. The Bushwick Starr 207 Star St., #4, between Wyckoff and Irving avenues in Bushwick, www.thebushwickstar.org

**THEATER, "LEADING LADIES"**  
Presented by The Heights Players. \$15; \$13 for seniors and children under 13. 8 pm, Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Jordanmon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752, www.heightsplayers.org

**THEATER, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS"**  
Play about the life of Bette Bourne, a British gay rights activist. \$30-55; 8 pm, St. Ann's Warehouse 138 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779, www.stannarehouse.org

**ART, POPUP ART STORE:** Set up by portfolio: ModuA.R.T., which features contemporary modular art. Free. ModuA.R.T. (81 Front St. in DUMBO, (718) 360-9000, www.art-rethought.com

**FILM, "LOOKING FOR ERIC"**  
\$12 (8 members), 6:40 pm, BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org

**DANCE, "LET'S CRACK SOME EGGS"**  
A story of a Caribbean man living using childhood memories to overcome the pain of migration. 7:30 pm, Kumbia Theater at Long Island University (DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624, www.brooklynliu.edu/KumbiaTheater

**COMEDY NIGHT:** Hosted by Nick Turner. College Humor and Jason Searns (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm, Cocobé (60 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint, (717) 807-6045, www.musiceducation.com

**MUSIC, BROOKLYN CHAMBER**  
MUSIC SOCIETY Classical concert. \$30 (320 students), 8 pm, Chapel



Jump to it: The Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition's latest show in Red Hook features Leah Yerp's award-winning photo. It runs through March 28.

of the First Unitarian Church (50 Monroe Pl. between Clark and Remond streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718, www.brooklynchambermusic.org)

**MUSIC, MICHAEL TAYLOR, HENRY WOLFE**  
\$10, 8 pm, Union Hall 700 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.petersandcandy.com

**MUSIC, KIDJO JORDAN AND WILLIAM PARKER**  
Saxophone and bass. 8 pm, Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9777, www.barbesbrooklyn.com

**MUSIC, WHEN I WAS 12**  
8 pm, Peter's Candy Store (209 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770, www.peterscandy.com)

**MUSIC, USA BLANCO & THE FURY**  
8 pm, Spoke Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737, www.musiceducation.com)

**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT**  
Selected pieces by Bach, Barbelia, Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1628, www.brooklynliu.edu

Beethoven and Munier. \$35 (\$30 seniors, \$15 students), 8 pm, Barge-music (Pulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.org)

**MUSIC, KATHLEEN PAYNE:** Sing in a wide range of genres, including pop, R&B, classical, musical theater, Latin, gospel and country. With: Cara Schwarz. \$10 (children \$6), 8 pm, Brooklyn Society for Cultural Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-9772, www.bscoc.org)

**MUSIC, JAZZ CONCERT:** Featuring Teuma Bradley, Charles Sabinsky, Dan Shuman, Robert Weiss, 8 pm, Old Stone House (334 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195, www.theoldstonehouse.org)

**MUSIC, JANE BELL:** \$10, 9 pm, Jalopy 315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz

**THEATER, "THE UNKNOWN WILLIAMS"**  
\$30 and \$20 (seniors), 8 pm, Friday, March 19

**THEATER, "LEADING LADIES"**  
8 pm, See Friday, March 19

**THEATER, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS"**  
2 and 8 pm, See Friday, March 19

**MUSIC, "DIDO" AND "ALEXIS & ACTION"**  
At the 2010 Queens Music Festival. \$28-\$125, 7:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org)

**DANCE, "LET'S CRACK SOME EGGS"**  
7:30 pm, See Friday, March 19

## http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

**MUSIC, SPITZER SPACE TELESCOPE:**  
9 pm, Pete's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770, www.peterscandy.com)

**MUSIC, DANIEL MCNEILL:** Free, 9 pm, BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 302-4100, www.bam.org)

**FILM, "WHITE MATERIAL"**  
\$12 (8 members), 9:15 pm, BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org)

**MUSIC, THE UKULELES:** \$10, 9:30 pm, Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz)

**IMPROV COMEDY, "CENTRIFY BROOKLYN"**  
Weekly improv show with troupes Sidecar and M.A.D. 10 pm, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 657-4816, www.brooklynlyceum.com)

**MUSIC, BILL CARMEL'S JUG ADDICTS:**  
Raucous approach to the jug band, old time, tin pan alley, early jazz and blues repertoire. 10 pm, Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9777, www.barbesbrooklyn.com)

### SAT, MARCH 20

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**TOUR, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN:**  
1 pm, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (100 Washington Ave. at East 8th Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7200, www.bbg.org)

**TOUR, GREENWOOD CEMETERY**  
Trek: See Friday, March 19

**DANCE, "LET'S CRACK SOME EGGS"**  
7:30 pm, See Friday, March 19

See 9 DAYS on page 10

## CIVIC CALENDAR

### MON, MARCH 22

**Community Board 2 Annual "Statement of Needs" hearing:** 6:15 pm, Long Island University (DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624, www.brooklynliu.edu)

**Community Board 4 Public Safety Committee:** Monthly meeting. On the agenda: discussion of a change in State Liquor Authority policy. 6:30 pm, New York Methodist Hospital (506 Sixth St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 643-3027, www.brooklynliu.edu)

### TUES, MARCH 23

**Community Board 1 Landmarks and Land Use Committee:** Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Location to be determined, (718) 389-3000

**Bay Ridge Community Council:** Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm, Shik Hill Houses (9000 Shore Rd. at 91st Street in Bay Ridge, (646) 322-2143)

### WED, MARCH 24

**Community Board 2 Youth, Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:** Monthly meeting. 6 pm, Long Island University (DeKalb and

Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1628, www.brooklynliu.edu)

**THURS, MARCH 25**  
**Community Board 4 Landmarks and Land Use Committee:** Monthly meeting. 6 pm, Cobble Hill Community Room (250 Baltic St. between Court and Clinton streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 643-3027, www.brooklynliu.edu)

**Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway information session:** 6:30 pm, Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Jordanmon St. between Adams and Court streets in Downtown, (718) 522-0193)

To let an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail calendar@brooklynpaper.com

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# Beisl engine!

## Austrian chef bolts for Gaphattan

Here's the tastiest restaurant gossip this week: **Borough hopping:** Thomas Ferlesch, chef-owner of the much-adored Fort Greene Austrian eatery Thomas Beisl, is apparently making a run for the border. The Lafayette Avenue eatery is up for sale on a local real-estate Web site, and the chef is rumored to be Manhattan bound. A call to the restaurant was returned, but Ferlesch had nothing to say.

**Signs of Life:** Prospect Heights' favored French bistro Le Gamin is inching closer to Greentown expansion. This week, signage finally went up at the impending Franklin Street



**Foodie-in-Chief**  
By Kristen V. Brown

location, though still no word on when the place might actually open.

**Trouble in South Slope:** Michaelangelo DeSeno, former manager of recently shuttered Ellis Bar, told me that the bar's ending was sudden and ugly. According to DeSeno, not only did owner Seth Ellis sneak out of town with unpaid beer bills and months of back rent, employees only found out that the bar was closing when DeSeno happened by the bar to find Ellis

gutting the Fifth Avenue venue — and only a few weeks after glowing coverage in The Brooklyn Paper. The Ellis family did not return an interview request.

**Closed for Renovations:** Moutarde, the Park Slope French eatery made famous for its scene in recent Oscar nominee "Julie and Julia," re-opens on Monday after renovations. The Internet rumor mill suggests the eatery may now be purple, which isn't really mustard.

**The Pizzification of Brooklyn:** Yet again, we report the borough of Kings has yet another pizzeria. Well, sort of. Brooklyn Heights' La Piz-zetta plans to reopen any day now under new management as a new



Ferlesch: He's leaving home (bye-bye).

brick-oven spot called Casa Tua. **Bagel Wars:** According to a work order in the window, Park Slope Farm, the nondescript bodega on Seventh Avenue near Union Street, is becoming yet another bagel shop. The store will join the ranks of La Bagel Delight and the far-superior Bagel Hole just down the street. We're sensing some serious competition for the heart of those Slope bagel lovers.



## Cool beans

Quit gazing your Starbucks fixtured — the real coffee revolution has just hit Brooklyn in the form of Bay-area cult java joint Blue Bottle Coffee, and it's taking a seriously sci-fi approach to your morning wake-up call.

Entering Blue Bottle, which opened in Williamsburg last Wednesday, you can't help but notice flashy technology: five three-foot-tall glass orbs, reminiscent of a science experiment, that ever so slowly brew iced coffee over a 12-hour cycle.

Other show stoppers include two "pour over" bars, where drip coffee is made one cup at a time by slowly pouring hot water from a Japanese kettle over finely ground beans, and in-house roasting equipment visible from the coffee bar.

This is not the latest place to grab an afternoon pick-me-up and hack

away on your laptop — with no seats, no WiFi, and no fancy baked goods, Blue Bottle is coffee for the Platonic connoisseur.

Head roaster Thomas Doyle defended the lack of chairs — it's all about encouraging community interaction, he said.

James Freeman, the mad coffee scientist of sorts behind Blue Bottle, added that he opened in Williamsburg because of the feel of the place.

"Williamsburg is a magical place," he said. "We just fell in love with Brooklyn, the sense of community here."

It's a serious coffee experience to be sure, but then again, this is seriously good coffee.

Blue Bottle Coffee (160 Berry St. at N. Fifth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 534-5488) — Kristen V. Brown

## A new 'Benchmark'

Brooklyn steak lovers — the secret is out: That hidden hush clubhouse behind Park Slope's Lok Lounge is actually a top notch steakhouse.

Chef and co-owner Ryan Jaronik, a former kitchenmaster at Monkey Town in Williamsburg as well as Chicago's famous Gibson's Steakhouse, calls his new spot Benchmark — and he's readying for a battle with the big boy.

"If you want a nice steak in Brooklyn, the only place to go is Peter Luger," said Jaronik. "Luger is the old man's steakhouse — simple, straightforward. We're striving to be better than that."

He's also trying to cut into that other



top sirloin in town, Morton's of Chicago, which is doing well on Adams Street in Downtown Brooklyn.

Benchmark will feature a la carte steaks in five cuts — all for \$30 or less. Other menu items include a seared Long Island duck breast with leg confit and chorizo-stuffed chicken wings with hot celery gardeniera.

Vegetarians beware: this place is all about the meat.

And properly cared-for meat, at that. Jaronik is constructing an aging room for in-house dry-aged beef and cured homemade sausages.

Just like Peter Luger.

Benchmark (339A Second St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-7040; Open Sunday-Thursday, 5-11 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 5 p.m.-midnight. — Kristen V. Brown

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Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

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\$275 per week (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon)

Open Houses

Saturdays, March 27 and April 17 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

## TEATER

**"THE CRUCIBLE":** Presented by the Players. \$18. \$14 for seniors and children 12 and under. 8 pm. Gallery Players (159 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101). galleyplayers.com

**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Selected pieces by Haydn, Beethoven and Weber. \$35 (\$30 seniors, \$15 students). 8 pm. Barge-music/Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org

**MUSIC, CONCEPT OF CLASSICAL INDIAN MUSIC:** The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents Mark Johnson (Tabla) and Gargi Shinde (sitar) in a vibrant presentation of Indian classical music. 10, 55 for kids. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (280 Seventh Ave. between St. Johns and Lincoln places in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300). www.bcm.org

**MUSIC, STRING ORCHESTRATION OF BROOKLYN:** Featuring works by Feltman, Hal, Perelman, and Greenstein. \$10. 8 pm. St. Ann's Church (157 Montague St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411).

**MUSIC, LYDIA WARREN:** Indie blues singer-song-

writer. Free. 9 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday (1087 Broadway, between Lawrence and Mulford streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-3443). www.myspace.com/goodbyeblumondy

**MUSIC, THE CANGELOSI CARDS:** New Orleans and jazz. \$10. 9 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodluff Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214). www.jalopy.biz

## SALES AND MARKETS

**ART, POP-UP ART STORE:** See Friday, March 19.

**PARK SLOPE GREENMAR:** KET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am–4 pm. Grand Army Plaza/Union Street at Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100.

**PS 321 FLEA MARKET:** Free. 9 am–5 pm. PS 321 schoolyard (Greenwich Avenue and First Street in Park Slope), www.parksideps321.net

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** Indoor crafts and antique market. Free. 10 am–5 pm. One Hanson Place (1 Hanson Pl. at Ashland Street in Fort Greene), www.brooklynflea.com

## ARTISTS AND FLEAS:

Free. Noon–5 pm. Artists and Fleas (129 N. Sixth St. between 1st and 2nd streets in Williamsburg, (718) 707-1411).

**MUSIC, LYDIA WARREN:** Indie blues singer-song-

## OTHER

**WORKSHOP, WINE MAKING:** Learn how to keep your buds by checking the anatomy of various wines. 10 am–1 pm. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7220). www.bbg.org

**TALK, "REBOSTOCKING THE CITY":** Author of "Reboot Now—Three Generations of Feminism in Conversation." Panel discussion. 2–4 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Ave. near 5th Avenue in Midtown East, (718) 638-5000). www.brooklynmuseum.org

**READING, ANDRE ACIMAN:** Author of "Eight Wives, Nine Deaths." Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

## FILM, "MAKING PLANS FOR LENA":

Part of the Rendez-Vous with French Cinema retrospective. \$12. 30 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

**FILM, "THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY":** Part of the Focus on IFC Films series. 8:30 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

## SUN, MARCH 21

## OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**TOUR, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN:** 1 pm. See Saturday, March 20.

**FAMILY BIKE RIDE:** Ride Brooklyn sponsors its inaugural spring ride. Free. 9:30 am–2 pm. Ride Brooklyn (440 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope, (347) 399-1452). www.ridebrooklyn.com

**PATRICK'S DAY PARADE:** Kicks off with a parade at Macy at Holy Name Church in Windsor Terrace. 9 am. Free. Parade kicks off from Prospect Park West and 14th Street in Park Slope at 10 am. For info, www.thefirstamericancapade.com

**TOUR, GREENWOOD CEMETERY:** Explore the graves of Horace Greengard, Tweed and the Brooks Brothers. 1 pm. Greenwood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 768-7500). www.greenwood.com

## PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, "THE UNKNOWN WILLIAMS":** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 19.

**THEATER, "LEADING LADIES":** 2 pm. See Friday, March 19.

**THEATER, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":** 8 pm. See Friday, March 19.

**THEATER, "THE CRUCIBLE":** 3 pm. See Saturday, March 20.

**MUSIC, "IN HIS FOOT":** STEPHEN: Lenten concert. Free. 10:30 am. Bethlehem Church (440 Doughty Ave. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in



Cake walk: The Grates bring their playful sound to Brooklyn Park on March 27.

Bay Ridge, (718) 748-9502). www.bethlehemchurch.org

**MUSIC, DAVID BRAZA:** Multi-platinum selling, Israeli singer-songwriter who combines Middle Eastern pop and folk with flamenco and American country. Free. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts (Brooklyn College 2900 Campus Rd. at Hillside Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500). www.bcm.org

## THEATER, "ROBIN HOOD ONE FOR ALL":

See Friday, March 19.

## DANCE, "LET'S CRACK SOME EGGS":

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, OLD SCRATCHY 78

See Friday, March 19.

## READING, TAYARI JOHNSON:

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, PETER STAMPEL AND THE OTHER FOLK:

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, LOUIE'S DANCE:

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, CHARLIE BURNHAM:

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, "BAROQUE CABARET":

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, "THE DANCING PERIMETER":

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, "LEADING LADIES":

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":

See Friday, March 19.

## MUSIC, "THE CRUCIBLE":

See Saturday, March 20.

## MUSIC, "IN HIS FOOT":

See Saturday, March 20.

## MUSIC, "THE DANCING PERIMETER":

See Saturday, March 20.

## MUSIC, "LEADING LADIES":

See Saturday, March 20.

## MUSIC, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":

See Saturday, March 20.

## MUSIC, "THE CRUCIBLE":

See Sunday, March 21.

## MUSIC, "IN HIS FOOT":

See Sunday, March 21.

## MUSIC, "THE DANCING PERIMETER":

See Sunday, March 21.

## MUSIC, "LEADING LADIES":

See Sunday, March 21.

## MUSIC, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":

See Sunday, March 21.

## MUSIC, "THE CRUCIBLE":

See Monday, March 22.

## MUSIC, "IN HIS FOOT":

See Monday, March 22.

## MUSIC, "THE DANCING PERIMETER":

See Monday, March 22.

## MUSIC, "LEADING LADIES":

See Monday, March 22.

## MUSIC, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":

See Monday, March 22.

## MUSIC, "THE CRUCIBLE":

See Tuesday, March 23.

## MUSIC, "IN HIS FOOT":

See Tuesday, March 23.

## MUSIC, "THE DANCING PERIMETER":

See Tuesday, March 23.

## MUSIC, "LEADING LADIES":

See Tuesday, March 23.

## MUSIC, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":

See Tuesday, March 23.

## MUSIC, "THE CRUCIBLE":

See Wednesday, March 24.

## MUSIC, "IN HIS FOOT":

See Wednesday, March 24.

## MUSIC, "THE DANCING PERIMETER":

See Wednesday, March 24.

## MUSIC, "LEADING LADIES":

See Wednesday, March 24.

## MUSIC, "A LIFE IN THREE ACTS":

See Wednesday, March 24.

## MUSIC, "THE CRUCIBLE":

See Thursday, March 25.

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# The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

## Now morphing into Crazy Lady

Smartmon has a brand new name: Crazy Lady. She gave it to herself because, lately, much of the time she really does feel crazy.

She feels crazy every time the *Oh So Feisty One* leaves her rock-heavy backpack in the foyer. How many times has Smartmon asked her not

to do that? How many times has Smartmon stubbed her toe on that textbook-stuffed thing?

She also feels crazy when OSFO leaves a trail of towels in the hallway after a shower. For Buddha's sake, how many towels does one girl need? And why can't she pick them up?

But it's not just OSFO. Teen Spirit makes her feel crazy every time he forgets his keys and buzzes at 2 a.m. when she and Hepcat are in a deep sleep.

Talk about murderously crazy. And Hepcat makes her feel crazy, too! It's like she's speaking in tongues when she asks him to walk his dinner plate to the sink or load the dishwasher.

She might as well be Linda Blair in "The Exorcist" when she suggests that he make the bed or that he take his dirty clothes on the floor next to the hamper, but actually put them in the hamper.

Crazy. And when she asks him to shop for dinner at the Coop or just to pick up milk and Tropicana at Met Food, it's like she's one of the Oompa Loompas in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Crazy Lady. The name fits because Smartmon feels crazy most of the time. And she's starting to act that way, too. She's been known to rant



By Louise Crawford

her needs seriously. She's sick and tired of the adolescent rolled eyes, the exasperated stares, the walking away from her when she's in the middle of a sentence; the not being paid attention to.

Don't they get it? If something doesn't change soon, she's going to be Really Crazy Lady.

Unfortunately, the more she yells, the crazier she feels. And the more they ignore her. It's like she's a lunatic babbling on the subway and Hepcat and the kids are those passengers who don't even look up from their iPods.

And if she doesn't say anything, they just keep on keeping on with their annoying, crazy-making habits. What's a smart mom to do?

And that's when Smartmon had a great idea. She would treat Crazy Lady as just another persona. That way it would be Crazy Lady, not Smartmon, who was nagging her family all the time.

Crazy Lady would be the invisible and irascible houseguest who never leaves. She'd hover over the apartment like a ghostly super-ego making sure that everyone was doing his share.

With Crazy Lady around, Smartmon can go back to being the mild-mannered, loving wife and mother she wants to be. Crazy Lady could be the bad cop.

So the other day, Smartmon told Hepcat that Crazy Lady found his dirty laundry next to the hamper and nearly stashed it in the garbage. "The woman is a little crazy," Smartmon whispered.

Hepcat looked nervous and quickly put his dirty pants in the hamper.

Later, she told OSFO that the sight of wet towels in the hallway nearly caused Crazy Lady to seize. "And that's not a pretty sight," she added. OSFO immediately picked up most of her wet towels and put them on the rack to dry.

When she told Teen Spirit that if he wakes up Crazy Lady in the middle of the night, she might pummel him with a coat hanger, he searched his room for his long lost keys and vowed never to forget them.

So far so good. It really is great to have Crazy Lady around and she doesn't take up any extra room. Crazy Lady will be a good influence on the household because she's just scary enough to keep everyone on their toes. Already, she seems to have had the desired effect.

And it's nice to have super cool Smartmon back, too. Hopefully, she can go back to baking cookies and being everyone's best friend. Yeah, right.

Louise Crawford, a Park Slope mom, also operates "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

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## DOMINO...

Continued from page 1  
use review process — and came just days after Community Board 1 rejected the residential conversion of the defunct sugar refinery in a 23-12 vote.

Like the community board, Levin focused on the impact of so many apartments on a historic 11-acre site along Kent Avenue just north of the Williamsburg Bridge.

"The plan would introduce over 6,000 new residents to the neighborhood, a nearly 25-percent population increase for the half-mile area surrounding the site," Levin's statement said.

The councilman, making his first foray into a project that will define his first term and the future of the Williamsburg waterfront, did commend CPC's commitment to affordable housing, which exceeds the requirement of a controversial 2005 rezoning of the waterfront to allow high-density residential construction — but Levin reiterated that he would not support the plan "unless the issues of height and density, transportation, and open space, among others, are addressed."

Levin's position is a significant blow to CPC, which is hoping that Markowitz will use his land-use review vote to approve their project on the grounds that it creates much-needed affordable housing, reuses a derelict site and opens up the waterfront for public access.

"Our vision is to create an economically balanced neighborhood," said company President Michael Lippin. "A affordable housing continues to be the most pressing need for the community."

Levin's opposition to the project will carry significant weight in the City Council, where members tend to defer to the local councilmember on land-use issues. As a result, Domino supporters were incensed by their new lawmaker's statement.

"The south side is solid and fervent in its support" for Domino, said Churches United Executive Director Paul Cogley, referring mostly to the promise of many new affordable units.

During his public hearing, Markowitz gave little indication of his position, asking questions about the amount of commercial space that the project would provide and the number of local

jobs that could arise from its construction.

He needs to issue a recommendation within a month, sending the project to its next step in the review, the City Planning Commission, which is expected to approve it. After that, the project goes for review by the City Council, which no longer appears to be the show-in that it once was, thanks to Levin's opposition.

## FAMILY CALENDAR

**FRI, MARCH 19**

11:30 am: Storytime with Emily. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, [theroxiespot.com](http://theroxiespot.com)).

4:15 pm: Movie night. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

**SAT, MARCH 20**

10:30 am: Storytime for kids. Greenlight Bookstore (188 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, [absbookstorebrooklyn.blogspot.com](http://absbookstorebrooklyn.blogspot.com)).

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show. "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Snow Queen." (50 Hicks St., Puppetworks (338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-1391, [www.puppetworks.org](http://www.puppetworks.org)).

1 pm: "Circus Tales." Performance that interweaves stories with physical comedy, circus skills and fun. Free. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Library's Central branch (Parkway at Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

1 pm: Easter egg hunt. Kaiser Park (West 31st Street and Neptune Avenue in Coney Island), [www.friendsofseapark.com](http://www.friendsofseapark.com).

1:30 pm: Science power hour. Learn about nature. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 297-3400, [www.prospectpark.org/audubon](http://www.prospectpark.org/audubon)).

1:30-2:30 pm: Dye workshop. Learn about the powerful properties of natural plant dyes. Free with \$7.50 museum admission. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, [www.brooklynkids.org](http://www.brooklynkids.org)).

**SUN, MARCH 21**  
3 pm: Environmental stories and activities. Free. Salt Marsh Nature Park (East 33rd Street and Avenue U in Marine Park, (718) 421-0211, [www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers)).

11 am: Celebrate spring and make a nature craft. Free. Fort Greene Park (Visitor Center/Museum Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, [www.brooklynkids.org](http://www.brooklynkids.org)).

**SAT, MARCH 27**  
10 am-5 pm: Spring break special programs and extended hours. Free with \$7.50 museum admission. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, [www.brooklynkids.org](http://www.brooklynkids.org)).

10:30 am: Storytime for kids. See Saturday, March 20.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show. See Saturday, March 20.

1:30-2:30 pm: Dye workshop. See Saturday, March 20.

4-5 pm: Kids reading and

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"Annie" at Cobble Hill Cinemas on March 22.

book signing with Robert Westrock ("Can You Dig It?") and Gilbert Fort ("Flying Lessons"). Free. Powerhouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049, [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com)).

**MON, MARCH 22**  
4 pm: "Annie." Part of the "Big Movies for Little Kids" series. \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinemas (265 Court St. between Butler and Douglas streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9113, [www.cobblehillcinemas.com](http://www.cobblehillcinemas.com)).

**TUES, MARCH 23**  
11:30 am: Singalong with Lloyd. Moxie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, [theroxiespot.com](http://theroxiespot.com)).

**WED, MARCH 24**  
1 pm: Storytime with Emily. See Friday, March 19.

**THURS, MARCH 25**  
11 am: Dance around with Nat. Moxie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, [theroxiespot.com](http://theroxiespot.com)).

6 pm: Nintendo Wii sports night. Movie Spot (see venue information above).

**FRI, MARCH 26**  
11:30 am: Storytime with Emily. See Friday, March 19.

6:15 pm: Movie night. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, [theroxiespot.com](http://theroxiespot.com)).

**SAT, MARCH 27**  
10 am-5 pm: Spring break special programs and extended hours. Free with \$7.50 museum admission. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, [www.brooklynkids.org](http://www.brooklynkids.org)).

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# Summit at a nadir

## CB6 rejects school plan

By Gary Bulso  
Community Newspaper Group

It's looking less likely that Boerum Hill's hottest prostitution corner will become the site of a new charter school.

That development comes courtesy of Community Board 6, which last week rejected the Summit Academy's bid for a special permit to open a school in a defunct warehouse on the corner of Butler and Nevins streets — the site of at least eight prostitution arrests in the past two months.

The board's March 10 vote was 20-12.

"This is an absolutely horrible place to site a school," said board member Debra Scott, who voted against the special permit. "There are prostitutes [there]."

After the vote, Summit

Academy Executive Director Natasha Campbell refused to say if the Butler Street warehouse had been abandoned, adding only that the school remains in "an exploratory phase, looking for a permanent home."

Summit Academy is currently housed inside PS 27 on Huntington Street in Red Hook, and serves 92 sixth graders.

Its population is expected to swell to 100 sixth graders and 100 seventh graders next year, forcing a new, 700-seat location that will eventually span multiple grades.

It's not only prostitution that is on board members' minds last week. The stiches also been denied for its speeding truck traffic.

But board member Betty Lester said that the site



This warehouse on Butler Street near Nevins Street is being sized up for a school. Opponents say that it's located on a street that's just too busy.

which is across the street from the Wyckoff Gardens housing development would be a good location for the school.

"We need that school there," said Lester, mocking reports of treacherous traffic. "Traffic goes faster on Court Street."

Court Street, of course, is home to several schools, including Brooklyn Heights Montessori, and the School for International Studies at Baltic Street.

And another board member, Mark Shames, said he backed the proposal because new land-use ideas are needed now that the federal government has named the Gowanus Expressway Superfund site — a designation that will curtail residential development.

"Areas that would have been designated for residential and other uses are now locked away for 12 years at a minimum," he said. "So we have to put schools somewhere, and the places that are left are areas that are inappropriate."

There's just one problem. The 700-foot-long Department of Transportation lot, located off Kent Avenue between S. Sixth Street and Broadway, currently houses a two-story storage facility that the city has no intention of giving up.

But that didn't stop the full board from its overwhelming vote last Tuesday, calling on the city to turn over the land to the Park Department — an effort linked to the waterfront's massive growth since a 2005 rezoning encouraged skyscraper development, but has yielded less open space than its supporters said it would.

"It's a place where time has come," said Land Use Committee Chairman Ward Dennis, arguing that it would be easy — and cheap — to convert the property into a portion of a public plaza, because the city-owned land has already been paved over.

[Former Councilman] David Yassky pinpointed 10 egregious wastes of waterfront space and [this lot] was number four," said Parks Committee member

# Off the waterfront!

## CB1 wants to turn city's parking lot into a park

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

It's a parking lot with the best view of the Manhattan skyline — and Community Board 1 wants to turn it into a park.

There's just one problem. The 700-foot-long Department of Transportation lot, located off Kent Avenue between S. Sixth Street and Broadway, currently houses a two-story storage facility that the city has no intention of giving up.

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[Former Councilman] David Yassky pinpointed 10 egregious wastes of waterfront space and [this lot] was number four," said Parks Committee member



The community board wants this parking lot to be a park. The Department of Transportation would prefer to keep it.

# TISH...

Continued from page 1

was being used. Since then, he's waged a one-man crusade to ward off the councilwoman's suit.

"Please don't go forward with it," he wrote to James in February. "You are famous and powerful while I'm nobody without means who's done you no harm. Pursuing this lawsuit could mean being run all around."

He also pointed out that he makes roughly one-tenth of James's salary, meaning that the lawsuit would likely not get much in a settlement.

Assuch, James shouldn't bank on a cash bonanza similar to the one that Borough President Markowitz received in 2003, two years after the city's famous slip and fall in an ice-slicked Albany parking lot that resulted in



A hitch similar to the one James allegedly bumped into.

an ankle broken in three places. Markowitz was on crutches for weeks.

On Wednesday, James responded to news coverage of her lawsuit, maintaining that she is fighting the case against the Everyman laborer on behalf of

everyman.

"It's a public safety issue," said James. "My car was parked and his car was parked. His car was exposed. ... This lawsuit could be ended today if he removed it."

The councilwoman claims that she discussed this with Day but he refused to remove the hitch. Day claims that he got the hitch from a U-Haul dealership, and that it is legal.

Legal or not, James retorted that the hitch was a deep scar on her leg.

"The doctor said it was a deep laceration and he wanted to give me stitches, but I said no," said the courageous councilwoman.

The larger irony of James's suit, of course, is that the councilwoman, not Day, may be the person who broke traffic regulations.

Walking between two parked cars could be jaywalking.

# More Johns nabbed in B'Hill

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

For the second time in as many months, cops collared a bevy of would-be Johns on the corner of Butler and Nevins streets in Boerum Hill on March 9.

In a sting operation that the 76th Precinct has nicknamed "Operation

Losing Proposition," officers netted four men who tried to solicit sex from

a woman working the corner.

That woman turned out to be an undercover cop — though not in plain clothes.

In the first incident at around 2 a.m., a man drove up to the officer and pulled down his pants and started masturbating.

He was charged only with lewd behavior.

But over the next several hours,

three men were put in bondage for offering money for sex.

The first man was arrested after offering \$20 for intercourse — and then turned out to have a large bag of heroin on him, cops said.

Within minutes, another man drove to the corner and offered \$100 for the same sex act. He was also arrested.

And a third man was arrested for offering \$20 for sex.

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**“I’m a vegetarian, never smoked,  
never drank and could bench-press 335 pounds.  
Trouble was, according to my heart, I was  
a push-up away from dying.”**

**– Isaac Sutton**

I was in a hotel room 2,000 miles from home when I felt a pop in my chest: like someone punched me. I didn’t panic and I didn’t think much of it.

When I got back, a friend recommended I see Dr. Joshua Kerstein...ASAP. So, I scheduled a checkup. I also planned on hitting the gym afterwards.

Dr. Kerstein listened to my story, listened to my heartbeat and took my blood pressure. He knew something wasn’t right so he sent me for an echocardiogram.

The test confirmed his worst fears. I had a subacute aortic dissection, a gradual tearing of the aorta from the heart. It’s a life-threatening condition. Dr. Kerstein immediately scheduled me for surgery the next morning.



**Maimonides**  
Medical Center  
Passionate about medicine.  
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If I had gone to the gym that night as planned, I probably would have died on the spot.

Dr. Israel Jacobowitz performed the 11-hour surgery the next day. Not only was the surgery successful, he miraculously was able to save the valve.

What’s the moral to this story? Actually, there are two: even if you think you’re in great shape, get yourself checked regularly. Secondly, if you live in Brooklyn and have any kind of a heart problem, go to the Cardiac Institute at Maimonides Medical Center—they’re ranked among the top 10% in the nation for overall cardiac services by HealthGrades®. But, as far as I’m concerned, they are absolutely number 1.

And I’ll stake my life on that.

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